MARVEL Comics
INTRODUCING...THE SHOCK TROOP!™
QUASAR
ANTIBODY SLAM!
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AVENGERS® ASSEMBLE!
A 30TH™
30 YEARS
1963-1993
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WENDELL VAUGHN. . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

Stan Lee presents

QUASAR

WE ARE THE SHOCK TROOP

SOMEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA...
QUASAR, I PRESUME?
YOU PRESUME RIGHT.
I RECOGNIZE THIS GUY. HE'S DOCTOR DRUID. HE WAS AN AVENGER BEFORE I JOINED... HE RESIGNED IN DISGRACE.
DON'T KNOW WHO THE REST OF HIS TROOP IS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE COME TO ADD TO MY ALREADY CONSIDERABLE TROUBLES!

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SO, UH, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, DOCTOR?
I TAKE IT THAT IS AN ATTEMPT AT A WITTICISM.
THIS REGION IS INFESTED WITH OCCULT ENTITIES. MY COLLEAGUES--M'KANTU, SHADOWOMAN, AND THE BLAZING SKULL--AND I HAVE APPOINTED OURSELVES THE POLICEMEN OF THE OCCULT--
--SO WHEN I SENSED THIS PSYCHIC DISTURBANCE, WE CAME RUNNING.
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS YOU GUYS ARE GOOD GUYS?
WE'RE NO ANGELS BUT CLOSE ENOUGH.
SO WHAT'S THE SITUATION HERE?
HEYA, BOYS, YOU LOOKIN' TO PARTY? I LOVE TO PARTY!
THESE FLYING GREMLINS ARE EXTRADIMENSIONAL BEINGS CALLED ANTIBODIES. THEY'RE GETTING MEANER BY THE MINUTE AND HAVE THE NASTY HABIT OF MULTIPLYING WHEN YOU HIT THEM.
ALSO IN THE AREA ARE TWO OLD SPARRING PARTNERS OF MINE--A RADIOACTIVE MUTANT AND A SUPER-STRONG ALIEN.
I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN TRUST THIS GUY IN LIGHT OF HIS AVENGERS RECORD, BUT I SURE AM NOT ABOUT TO LOOK A GIFT POSSE IN THE MOUTH!

MARK GRUENWALD WRITER • ANDY SMITH PENCILER • RALPH CABRERA INKER • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER
PAUL BECTON COLORIST • MIKE ROCKWITZ EDITOR • RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO DRUID IN CHIEF

OUR FIELD IS THE *OCCULT*. WE'LL HANDLE THESE *ANTIBODIES*. THE *MUTANT* AND THE *ALIEN* ARE ALL *YOURS!*

HUH? OH, *OKAY.*

N'KANTU! SUBDUE ONE OF THESE CREATURES AND BRING HIM *HERE!*

HOOO, I'M STILL FLYING A LITTLE BIT UNSTEADILY AFTER THAT *CRASH.*

SURE WISH I HAD MY *QUANTUM-BANDS* BACK ALREADY.*

THIS *STARBRAND* POWER I'VE BEEN RUNNING ON IS STILL VERY DISORIENTING. AND I KEEP HAVING THE NAGGING SUSPICION--

--THAT SOONER OR LATER I'M GOING TO TOTALLY *USE IT UP.*

*QUAZ LOST HIS Q-BANDS DURING THE RECENT *INFINITY WAR.* --QUANTUM MIKE

N'KANTU?

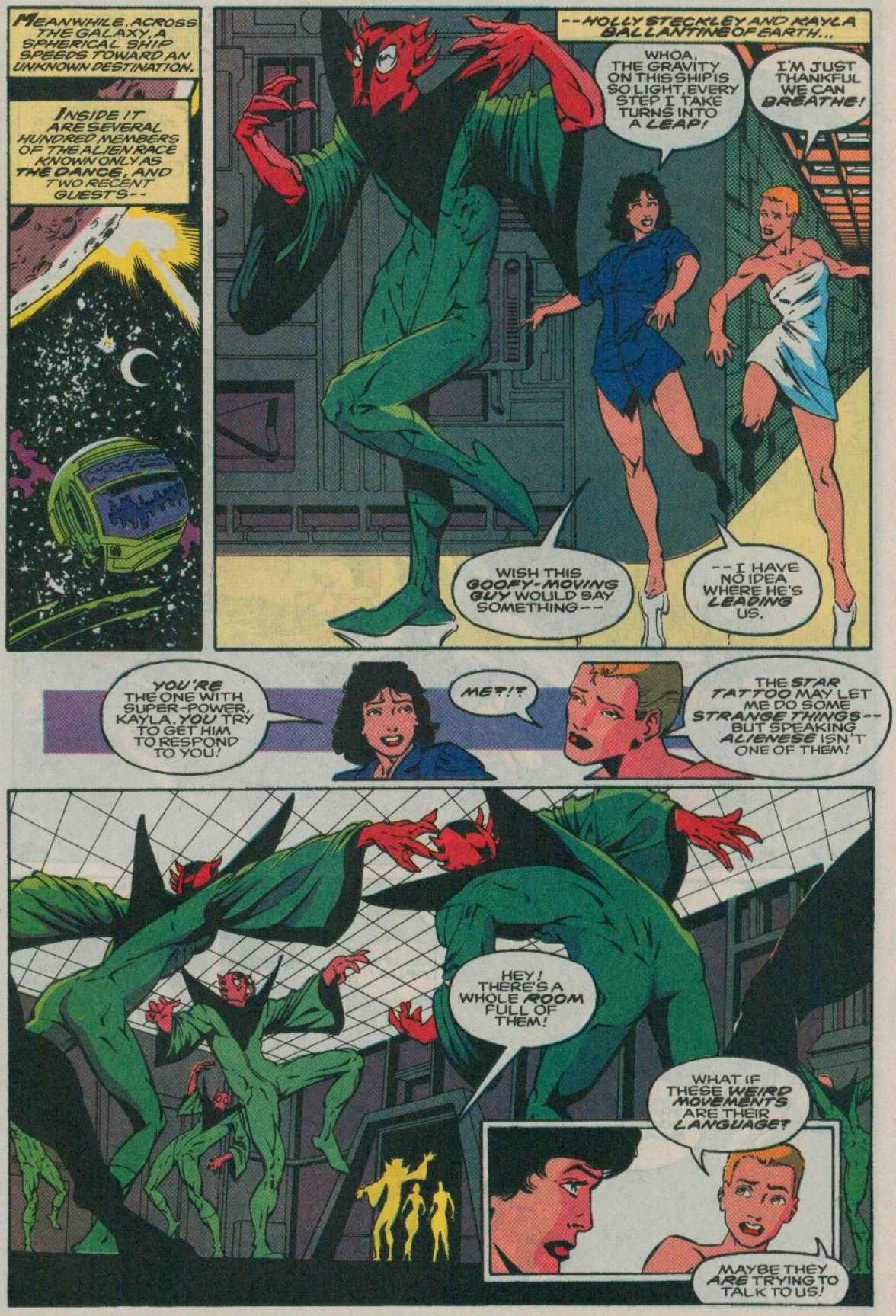
ONE MINUTE, DOCTOR!

GOOD. NOW I WILL TRY TO *UNLOCK* THIS CREATURE'S *MIND* TO LEARN ITS *ORIGINS* AND *MOTIVATIONS.*

I SEE IMPRESSIONS OF TWO MEN--BOTH FROM OTHER EARTHLIKE DIMENSIONS.
ONE MAN WAS GOOD--AND IT WAS IN HIS BODY THEY WERE ORIGINALLY FORMED.
BUT THEY WERE SEPARATED FROM HIM--FOUND REFUGE IN THE BODY OF THE EVIL MAN... AND FELL UNDER HIS INFLUENCE.
GAZE INTO MY EYES, CREATURE! NOW TELL ME WHAT IT IS THAT YOU AND YOUR BODY-DOUBLES WANT--
--WHY ARE YOU RAMPAGING?
NEARBY...
GRAAAAAMA!
SHH, CHILD! STAND VERY VERY STILL A-AND MAYBE THESE SHADOWY MEN WILL SEE WE MEAN THEM NO HARM!
THINKING GOOD THOUGHTS WON'T PROTECT YOU AGAINST THIS LOT, MA'AM.
BUT THE SHADOWOMAN WILL!

COME ON, BOYS, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!
YOU SEE, MY BODY CAN MELT INTO SHADOW--
--AND SURE ENOUGH, I CAN TAKE YOU WITH ME!
OKAY, YOU LADIES ARE SAFE NOW. I'D RECOMMEND YOU HURRY ON HOME!
HOME? YES--HOME!
GINA, LET'S GO NOW!
WOW, THAT WAS TOTALLY COOL!

NEARBY...
WHAT'S A' MATTER, BOZOS?
MY GLOWIN' FORCE FIELD PLAYIN' HOB WITH YOUR SPOOKY BODS?
WELL, B'TWEEN YOU 'N ME, IT AIN'T EXACTLY DOIN' MY LOVE LIFE ANY FAVORS EITHER!


MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE GALAXY, A SPHERICAL SHIP SPEEDS TOWARD AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION.
INSIDE IT ARE SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE ALIEN RACE KNOWN ONLY AS THE DANCE, AND TWO RECENT GUESTS--
--HOLLY STECKLEY AND KAYLA BALLANTINE OF EARTH...
WHOA, THE GRAVITY ON THIS SHIP IS SO LIGHT, EVERY STEP I TAKE TURNS INTO A LEAP!
I'M JUST THANKFUL WE CAN BREATHE!
WISH THIS GOOFY-MOVING GUY WOULD SAY SOMETHING--
--I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE'S LEADING US.
YOU'RE THE ONE WITH SUPER-POWER, KAYLA. YOU TRY TO GET HIM TO RESPOND TO YOU!
ME?!?
THE STAR TATTOO MAY LET ME DO SOME STRANGE THINGS-- BUT SPEAKING ALIENESE ISN'T ONE OF THEM!
HEY! THERE'S A WHOLE ROOM FULL OF THEM!
WHAT IF THESE WEIRD MOVEMENTS ARE THEIR LANGUAGE?
MAYBE THEY ARE TRYING TO TALK TO US!

EARTH.
IT WOULD BE TOO GOOD IF DOC DRUID AND CREW COULD FIGURE OUT HOW TO HANDLE THOSE ANTIBODIES...
...NEUTRON AND THE PRESENCE ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO KEEP ME HOPPING.
WHERE ARE THOSE JERKS HIDING ANYWAY?
WHOA! NEUTRON!
TRIED TO TORPEDO ME!
HEY, LISTEN, NEUTRON-- THE KREE-SHI'AR WAR IS OVER. YOUR SIDE WON. WE'VE GOT NO REASON TO FIGHT.
YOU SAY THAT JUST TO AVOID A BEATING.
NO, IT'S TRUE!
WAR OR NO WAR, YOU MUST PAY FOR HOW YOU TREATED ME!

SO WHAT'S GOING TO SATISFY YOU, NEUT? ROUGHING ME UP SOME MORE? KILLING ME--
OOP.
I WILL KILL YOU! THEN IF I AM STILL NOT SATISFIED, I WILL ROUGH YOU UP SOME MORE!
PHWOOOU!
BAM
WAIT A MINUTE COOL IT WITH THE TESTOSTERONE STUFF AND I'LL HELP YOU GET BACK TO THE--
SON OF A--!
THUD
YOU REALLY ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS BEATING THING! Y'KNOW, MY ESTIMATION OF YOUR SPECIES' LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION IS DROPPING BY THE MOMENT!
A STYGIAN DOES NOT CARE WHAT ANY LOWER LIFE FORM THINKS OF HIM!
A STYGIAN, HMM? FIGURES.

AT THAT MOMENT, 22,300 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH...
<I'M GETTING A READING! WE'VE FOUND HIM AT LAST!>
<PREPARE TO JUMP!>
OBLIVIOUS, BELOW...
MACHA, BADB, AND MORRIGNA! THESE CREATURES' TORMENTS STAND REVEALED TO ME!
BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION...
...UNLESS...
SHADOWOMAN! I NEED YOU!

YES, ANTHONY?

THESE CREATURES ARE *RAMPAGING* BECAUSE THEY'RE *DYING* FROM LACK OF CONTACT WITH A *HOST BODY*.

YET THE *DARKFORCE* THAT CONTAMINATES THEIR SYSTEMS MAKES IT *IMPOSSIBLE* FOR THEM TO *ENTER* A HOST!

I HAVE A PLAN TO RID THEM ALL OF THEIR *CONTAMINATION*. BUT IT WILL REQUIRE *YOUR HELP!*

NAME IT.

ASSUME YOUR *SHADOW FORM* AND CAST IT ACROSS THIS *ANTIBODY*.

N'KANTU! SCULLY! LET THE ANTIBODIES *COME FORTH!*

YOU *ASKED* FOR IT!

NEARBY...

I HAD FEARED THAT IN THE TIME IT TOOK ME TO REPAIR THE *BREACH* IN MY *ARMOR*--

--MY COMRADE WOULD HAVE *FINISHED* QUASAR, ROBBING ME OF *MY* REVENGE UPON HIM.

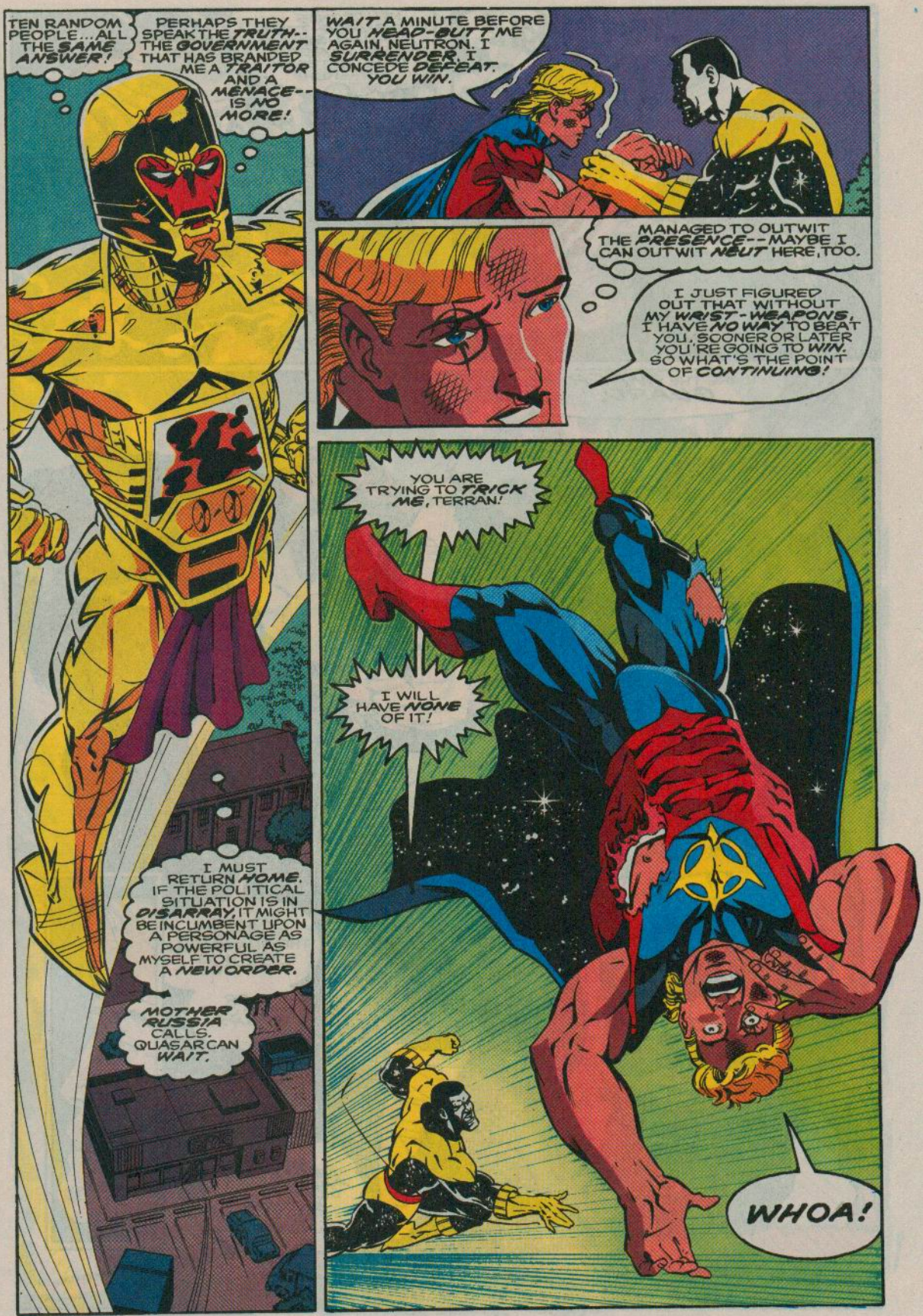
BUT I SEE THE ACCURSED *AMERICAN* IS STILL IN THE FRAY!

UH-OH! THE *PRESENCE!*

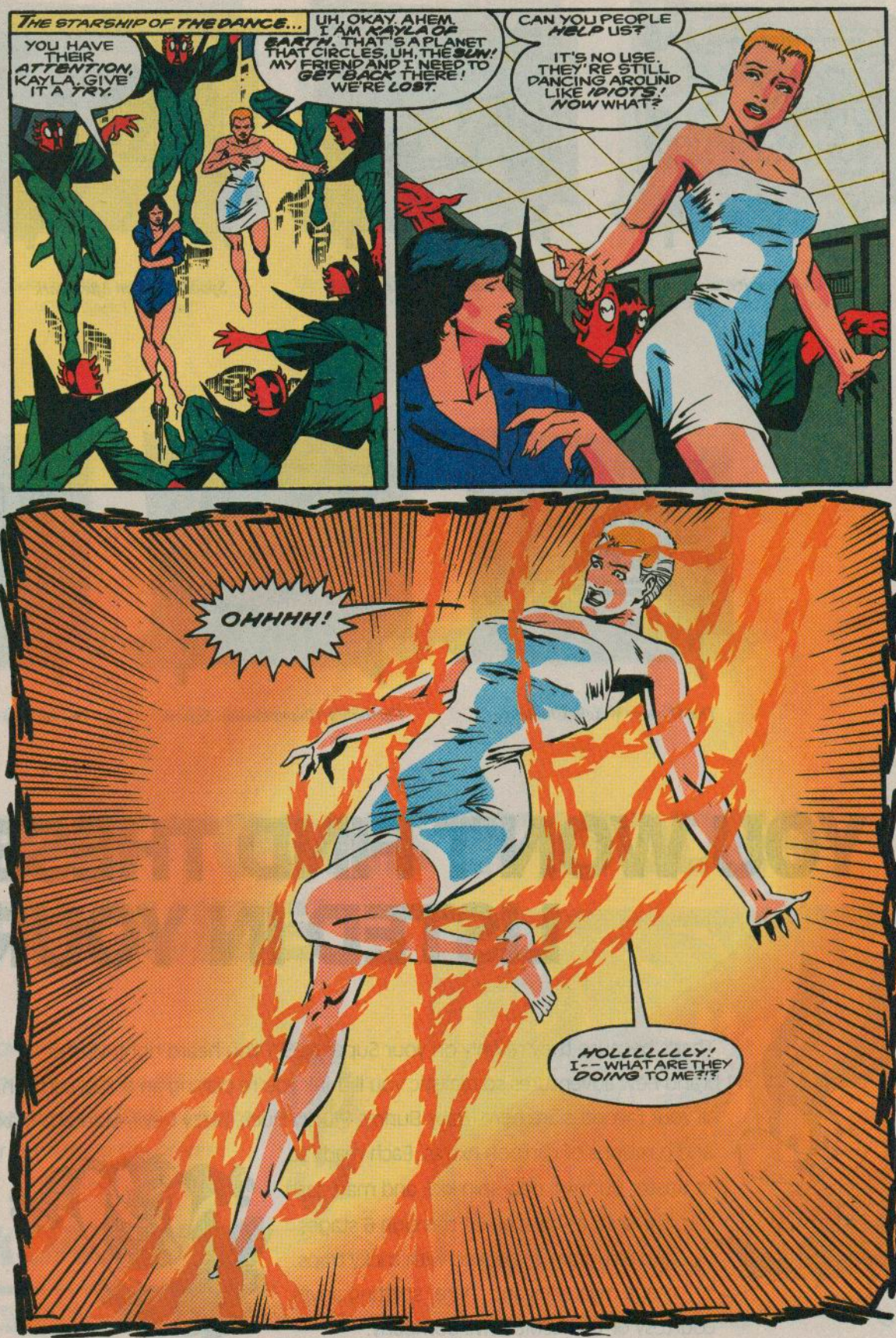
I WILL BREAK YOU, AMERICAN!
YOU COULD WASTE YOUR TIME TRYING, SERGE, OR YOU CAN HIGHTAIL IT BACK TO YOUR NATIVE LAND WHERE THERE'S A BIG SURPRISE WAITING!
WHILE YOU WERE GONE, THE SOVIET UNION BROKE UP! IT FELL APART INTO A BUNCH OF SMALLER COUNTRIES--RUSSIA, UKRAINE--UH, GEORGIA, I THINK....
YOU LIE!
I'M A LOT OF THINGS BUT A LIAR ISN'T ONE OF THEM, SERGE!
BUT HOW CAN THIS BE TRUE? THE COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD NEVER ALLOW--
DON'T BELIEVE ME? ASK ANYBODY. EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE U.S.S.R.!
IF YOU ARE LYING, I WILL BE BACK!
WELL, NEUT--LOOKS LIKE IT'S BACK TO JUST THE TWO OF US AGAIN!
THRUNNK
AOW!

A MILE AWAY...
IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING!
I'VE GIVEN THE SUPINE ANTIBODY A PSYCHOKINETIC CHARGE SO THAT ANY ANTIBODY PASSING WITHIN SIX OR SO FEET OF IT--
--WILL BE SUCKED INTO THE DIMENSIONAL INTERFACE JILLIAN'S SHADOW-POWERS HAVE OPENED!
IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, IF SCULLY AND N'KANTU CAN KEEP THE ONSLAUGHT OF ANTIBODIES REDIRECTED THIS WAY!
OR IF JILLIAN CAN MAINTAIN THE INTERFACE. I SENSE IT IS TAXING HER STAMINA TO THE LIMIT!
COME ON, TAR-BOYS-- YOU'RE LATE FOR YOUR FAMILY REUNION!

A TOWN NEARBY...
J-JONATHAN!
COURAGE, MARTHA!
D-DON'T HURT US! WE'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY!
I SEEK INFORMATION. ANSWER ME TRUTHFULLY OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCE.
OKAY!
TELL ME WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE SOVIET UNION!
WELL, SIR, IT BROKE UP INTO A BUNCH OF SMALLER COUNTRIES. THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS OVERTHROWN. BORIS YELTSIN WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW. I DON'T FOLLOW THE NEWS ALL THAT MUCH.
HIS CLAIM IS THE SAME AS QUASAR'S!
WHEW!
WHO WAS THAT, JON?
I MUST QUESTION MORE PEOPLE!
YOU! TELL ME ABOUT THE U.S.S.R.!
EEP.
HOT DOGS


TEN RANDOM PEOPLE...ALL THE SAME ANSWER!
PERHAPS THEY SPEAK THE TRUTH--THE GOVERNMENT THAT HAS BRANDED ME A TRAITOR AND A MENACE--IS NO MORE!
I MUST RETURN HOME. IF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS IN DISARRAY, IT MIGHT BE INCUMBENT UPON A PERSONAGE AS POWERFUL AS MYSELF TO CREATE A NEW ORDER.
MOTHER RUSSIA CALLS. QUASAR CAN WAIT.
WAIT A MINUTE BEFORE YOU HEAD-BUTT ME AGAIN, NEUTRON. I SURRENDER. I CONCEDE DEFEAT. YOU WIN.
MANAGED TO OUTWIT THE PRESENCE--MAYBE I CAN OUTWIT NEUT HERE, TOO.
I JUST FIGURED OUT THAT WITHOUT MY WRIST-WEAPONS, I HAVE NO WAY TO BEAT YOU. SOONER OR LATER YOU'RE GOING TO WIN. SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF CONTINUING?
YOU ARE TRYING TO TRICK ME, TERRAN!
I WILL HAVE NONE OF IT!
WHOA!

WhoUUUgh!
TOSSED ME WITH SUCH FORCE, I COULDN'T CUT MY MOMENTUM!
NEUTRON IS ONE SUPER-TOUGH SO-AND-SO! I'M GOING TO REALLY HAVE TO THINK UP--HUH?
WHAT'S THAT ENERGY CRACKLE?!?
WE ARE THE IMPERIAL GUARD.
YOU WILL SURRENDER THE GUARDSMAN YOU HOLD HOSTAGE--
--OR FACE OUR MIGHT!
AW, NO! NEUTRON'S PALS! LIKE I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE ALREADY?!?


THE STARSHIP OF THE DANCE...
YOU HAVE THEIR ATTENTION, KAYLA. GIVE IT A TRY.
UH, OKAY. AHEM. I AM KAYLA OF EARTH. THAT'S A PLANET THAT CIRCLES, UH, THE SUN! MY FRIEND AND I NEED TO GET BACK THERE! WE'RE LOST.
CAN YOU PEOPLE HELP US?
IT'S NO USE. THEY'RE STILL DANCING AROUND LIKE IDIOTS! NOW WHAT?
OHHHH!
HOLLLLLLLY! I--WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO ME?!?

EARTH...

STILL AT LEAST *TWO DOZEN* ANTIBODIES AT LARGE! THEY'RE *OVER-WHELMING* US!

ELSEWHERE ON EARTH...

VOYAGER! MOONGLOW! GLOM! YOU'VE *COME* FOR ME!

<WHERE HAVE YOU *BEEN*, NEUTRON?>

SEE, I *TOLD* YOU I WASN'T HOLDING HIM HOSTAGE!

<TRANSLATED FROM SHI'AR.>-- MI'KAR.

<WE'VE BEEN *LOOKING* FOR YOU SINCE THE END OF *THE WAR!*>

<THIS PRESUMPTUOUS EARTH CREATURE *TELEPORTED ME* INTO THE VAST INTERSTELLAR *VOID* AND ABANDONED ME THERE!>

<SINCE *RESCUING MYSELF*, I HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO REGAIN MY HONOR THROUGH *COMBAT!*>

IF HE'S COMPLAINING THAT *I* WARPED HIM OUT OF PLAY, VOYAGER, YOU MIGHT *REMIND* HIM THAT YOU DID THE *EXACT SAME THING* TO ME!*

HMM!

*TRUE, IN ISSUE #33.--M.

<WE'VE BEEN IN THIS *SPACE SECTOR* SCANNING FOR YOU FOR *MONTHS*, NEUTRON STAR! DID YOU NOT ACTIVATE YOUR *LOCATOR?*>

<I... WAS *NEGLIGENT.*>

WELL, IMPERIALS, YOU FOUND YOUR LONG-LOST COMRADE. SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIM AND HURRY ON BACK TO YOUR EMPIRE, HMM?
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO CREATE AN INTERSTELLAR INCIDENT BY HANGING AROUND HERE TOO LONG WITHOUT PASSPORTS, WOULD YOU?
NEUTRON, HAVE MATTERS HERE BEEN RESOLVED TO YOUR SATISFACTION?
SNFF SNICC
WELL...
EXCUSE ME, BUT DOES YOUR FRIEND HAVE TO--
TERRAN'S ENERGY SMELLS DIFFERENT THAN LAST TIME.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE--EOWWW!
GLOM--WHAT IN LILANDRA'S NAME ARE YOU DOING?
HRRRRRR
HE'S EATING MY ARM IS WHAT HE'S DOING!
GET HIM OFF OR I WON'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS!

QUASAR, I NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE ANTIBODIES! COME QUICKLY!
DRUID--?
OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
NO TIME TO DISLODGE THE LIVING APPETITE JUST NOW!
THERE'S THE ANTIBODIES-- BUT WHERE'S DRUID AND THE SHOCK TROOPERS?
UNLESS...!
THE PILE!
FIRST FLOOR-- EVERYBODY OFF!
SNFF
FOOD!

CLUMP
!
WHAT AM I LOOKIN' AT?
CRUMP
GLNCH
QUASAR! WHAT IS THIS YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU?
AN ENERGY-EATING ALIEN. WHAT ELSE?
HE MUST THROW THE REMAINING BODIES AT THE LEVITATING ONE.
HURRY! SHADOWOMAN CAN'T HOLD THE GATEWAY OPEN MORE THAN A FEW MORE MOMENTS!
WHAT GATEWAY?
OH, THAT GATEWAY!
GLOM HUNGRY! GLOBS OF ENERGY IN LAST DARK MAN!
WAIT! DON'T--!

STOP HIM! SHADOWOMAN'S STILL MERGED WITH THAT CREATURE!
JILL--!
GRMP
DON'T WORRY, BOYS.. I MADE IT OUT BEFORE THE MOUTH TOOK A BITE!
BESIDES, HE'S NOT REALLY EATING THEM, JUST SIPHONING OFF THEIR DARKFORCE!
THE THREAT HAS ENDED! THE ESSENCE OF THE ORIGINAL ANTIBODY HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO--
WHO ARE THESE?
MORE ALIENS.
HEY, VOYAGER, NEXT TIME YOU TAKE GLOM ANYWHERE, PUT HIM ON A LEASH!
GLOM FULL NOW.
<THIS WORLD CEASES TO INTEREST ME. LET'S GO.>
BEWARE OUR NEXT MEETING, QUASAR!
WELL, DOCTOR, THANKS FOR THE ASSIST. I GUESS THE AVENGERS WERE WRONG ABOUT YOU.
I TRAVEL IN OTHER CIRCLES NOW.
IF YOU EVER HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM WITH THE SUPERNATURAL, YOU NOW KNOW WHO TO CALL.
QUANTUM QUEST!

QUORUM

MIKE ROCKWITZ: EDITOR JOE ANDREANI: ASSISTANT EDITOR

Before we start, we'd like to extend a tip of our cosmic hat to Nelson Jimenez of Stamford, CT for his many letters suggesting how to revitalize the Living Mummy. Thanks to his constant reminders, we finally found a place for good ol' N'Kantu in this issue's SHOCK TROOP!

Dear Marvel,

QUASAR continues to be one of the comic world's most consistent entertainment values. I don't know how much press it gets (I suspect very little), but month after month you guys deliver the goods with inventive, engaging storylines and breathtaking art. The consistency of the writing is easy to understand with Mark Gruenwald handling the scripting chores throughout the series, but the continuing excellent quality of the artwork is much more of a marvel (pun intended). From the early days of Paul Ryan and Mike Manley through Greg Capullo and Steve Lightle, somehow this book has always managed to attract high-class artwork from artists who seem particularly suited to Quasar's space-faring adventures. This commitment to quality is very welcome and well appreciated, and can only help fuel Mark's already-stoked creative fires.

A couple of thoughts about the INFINITY WAR crossovers: while I like the way you've explored what happens to someone when he's "ultimately nullified" and I'm anxious (once again) to see how Quasar gets out of this latest crisis, I would caution against playing the "death card" once too often. Quasar just died in "Cosmos in Collision," after all. Two back from the dead plots practically back to back can render any future menace to Quaze unbelievable and tensionless. I realize this is fantasy but there must be some sense of vulnerability for the main character or else you risk a complacent readership. It's just something that you might want to consider.

I love the Kayla storyline. Who would've guessed she had the Starbrand? One could argue that this development violated Mark's self-imposed rule of the New Universe never overlapping with the Marvel Universe, but since the New U is dead for all practical purposes, I don't see any problem. I actually think it's pretty inventive. And Mark continued with his tradition of utilizing nearly-forgotten Marvel characters with his inclusion of the Chief Examiner from the QUESTPROBE series. I hope he'll continue this trend.

Anyway, thanks for your time and keep the good stuff coming.

Michael J. Miller
513 Monroe St. Box 404
Hanover, IL 61041

We'll not only keep the good stuff coming, Michael, we'll keep the bad stuff going! As for the twice-dead problem, well, getting him nullified was something the INFINITY WAR crossover obliged us to deal with--we wouldn't have done it otherwise. We hope we made the second demise storyline sufficiently different from Quasar's first demise for you.

Dear Marvel,

So she finally got a real name! Although Kismet is an improvement from Her, it's not the greatest of names either. But I'll settle for a noun rather than a pronoun anyday! I am also intrigued Kayla got the Starbrand. It looks like she'll end up a super-heroine after all. One thing I like about Mark Gruenwald's writing is his strong female supporting casts. They are the only reason I collect the titles he writes. Quasar is such a boring character, I hope he stays nullified as long as possible. I would much prefer to see more of Kismet and Kayla. Hey, how about if Kismet, Kayla, Binary, and Nova team up to rescue Quasar. That would be a rereshing change.

Robert Hemedes
Davis, CA

Dear Marvel,

It's good to see that Quasar has avoided the only death that really matters in comics--cancellation--but I'm sure you can always use another letter of praise. QUASAR is the best book around, bar none. I've been collecting from issue #1, having been introduced to Wendell Vaughn in the classic Project: Pegasus stories in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, and have not been disappointed by a single issue.

Quasar seems to be the only "real" person in comics these days. He hasn't the attitude problems of the various X-characters, he is aware that sometimes the only way to save the lives of many is by the sacrifice of another life (either an enemy's or his own) but always strives for another answer. At the same time, the comic does not indulge in the dreadful self-analysis common in those titles that always seem to have "For Mature Readers" on the cover. The book is about a guy who is, in short, all that a hero should be.

It's good to see the Protector of the Universe taking a pivotal role in the Infinity War, particularly as the Magus threatens more than just our planet--a fact which should have concerned other powerful races, by the way. Why were there no extraterrestrial heroes present? The Super-Skrull, the Kree Starforce, and the Starjammers would all want to counter this threat to their worlds. I know that this story wasn't your baby but I had to air my views somewhere!

But enough with this fulsome praise. There will now follow a short burst of criticism. Although Quasar is the hero of the comic and, obviously, the main events must revolve around him, I have been saddened by the recent lack of space given to a group of people who together could have given the Magus a run for his money. I refer, of course, to the Squadron Supreme. This storyline has been left dangling too long. Wouldn't the Squaddies at least be out and about doing the odd good deed here and there, instead of cooling their heels at Project: Pegasus? I understand that their presence on our Earth could easily destroy the delicate balance of heroes/villains that has risen over the years, but so what? If this is out of the question, then let's ship them home.

While I'm on the subject of co-stars, I'd really like to see Makkari do more than play the fifth wheel to Quasar. He should be able to conquer the problem of flightlessness with minimal effort. He is an Eternal after all, and has more power in his little finger than most of us do in our entire bodies.

But back to the praise. It was great to see the New Universe heroes again and the fact that the Starbrand is still about suggests that they may appear in the future. As to Kayla obtaining the Brand-- you know the old saying about hanging around superdudes too long? Some of it always rubs off. Her reaction to this newfound power should be intriguing to say the least.

Any criticism I may have aimed at you in this letter is quibbling, to say the least. If Quasar goes on as it is, I could hardly be more pleased. Keep up the good work.

Morgan Nash
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Cuffley, Herfordshire
EN6 4PL England

Dear Marvel,

One of the earmarks of a good story is its ability to work on more than one level at once. On the one hand, QUASAR is very much a younger reader's comic, telling fairly simple science fiction/adventure tales involving colorful people with magnificent powers. Taken on that level alone, this is a fun and entertaining series. Indeed, part of this title's charm is that it's possible to enjoy these stories without a great deal of introspection.

On a deeper, more sophisticated level, however, I think QUASAR is nothing less than Mr. Gruenwald's ongoing essay on the nature of heroism. Not necessarily physical prowess, the kind of "heroism" that comes from being the last guy standing when the smoke clears. No, I'm talking more of moral heroism, that irrational (and in Quasar's case, perhaps semi-suicidal) itch folks get to turn a good deed even though it profits them nothing and may actually cost them dearly. Think about it, what has Quasar gotten so far from being Protector of the Universe? Nothing but pain, stress, violence, death, and responsibility heaped upon responsibility. So why does he do it? Because it needs to be done. Because he's something of a martyr. Because it needs to be done. Because he's seen too many movies (or read too many comic books). Because he's touched in the head. But mostly because he's a kind and decent person unfortunate enough to have the courage and power to back up his convictions. Taken on this level, QUASAR transcends its cheap barrier of paper and staples to become much, much more than mere entertainment. It becomes a testament to human bravery, duty, and compassion in the face of cosmic adversity.

I think you guys are doing a wonderful job. Thanks for providing me with so much food for thought.

Dan Woodward
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